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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Balkans  
 SUBJECT Military; Political - International tension  
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily, weekly newspapers  
 WHERE PUBLISHED Prague; Zurich; Sofia; Paris; Stockholm  
 DATE PUBLISHED 25 Apr - 26 Jun 1950  
 LANGUAGE Serbo-Croatian; German; Bulgarian; French; Swedish

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 19 Jul 1950

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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BORDER INCIDENTS AGGRAVATE BALKAN RELATIONS

CLAIM BULGARIAN NATIONALS MISTREATED IN YUGOSLAVIA -- Nova Borba /published in Prague/ No 8, 10 May 50

On 21 April the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria handed a letter of protest to the Yugoslav Embassy in Sofia regarding arrests and persecution of Bulgarian nationals in Yugoslavia. The letter stated that these Bulgarian nationals are forbidden to leave their domiciles without permission, are not allowed to return to Bulgaria, and are exposed to persecution by the Yugoslav police.

The Yugoslav authorities also detain Greek refugees by force and do not allow them to choose the country of their exile. Yugoslavia hampers the activities of the Bulgarian Embassy in Belgrade and prevents Bulgarian citizens from acquiring Bulgarian passports.

The authorities sent 6,800 Bulgarian citizens who wished to return to Bulgaria to Gakovo and Krusevlje near the Hungarian border. When these Bulgarians again expressed the desire to return to their country, they were sent to the vicinity of Titov Veles, Kumanovo, Sv. Nikola, and Skoplje. When the Bulgarian Embassy in Belgrade issued passports to these Bulgarians, the Yugoslav authorities confiscated them by force.

The letter demanded that Yugoslavia put a stop to the persecution of Bulgarian citizens and allow them to return to Bulgaria.

BULGARIANS FIRE AT YUGOSLAV PATROLS -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 166, 19 Jun 50

A dispatch from Belgrade reports that during the night of 15 June Bulgarian troops and border guards fired about 400 shots at Yugoslav patrols near Dimitrov, a town on the Serbo-Bulgarian border. Bulgarian border patrols are said to have advanced into Yugoslav territory, under cover of rifle fire from Bulgarian soldiers posted at the border. The Yugoslavs returned fire. One of their men was wounded.

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BULGARIAN SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN NEW ATTACK -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 1348, 26 Jun 50

Belgrade -- A border incident occurred near Polye on the Yugoslav-Greek-Bulgarian border during the night of 15 to 17 June, when several groups of Bulgarian soldiers -- 27 in all -- advanced on Yugoslav territory in combat formation and attempted to abduct a Yugoslav border patrol. Shots were fired by both sides and several Bulgarians were said to have been wounded.

Apparently the frequency of border incidents aimed at Yugoslavia has greatly increased in recent months. A communique issued in Belgrade announced that from 1 January to 1 June 1950 some 352 armed provocations took place along the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Albanian borders.

YUGOSLAV SPIES TRIED IN ALBANIA -- Nova Borba, No 8, 10 May 50

The trial of six Yugoslav spies began recently in Tirana. Two of these spies were former members of the guard of the Italian King Victor Emmanuel; later they worked for the Gestapo, and finally they joined the Yugoslav intelligence service. All the accused admitted that they were assigned by the UDB (Yugoslav secret police) to distribute propaganda material in Albania and to kill Albanian government officials and Army officers. They were told to contact persons who are dissatisfied with the present Albanian regime and persuade them to escape to Yugoslavia.

The defendant Rudaj confessed that he was ordered to obtain political and economic information on Albania. While crossing the border, Rudaj and two other men were seen by the Albanian border patrol. In the struggle Rudaj killed the leader of the patrol, and was himself wounded and arrested. The other two men swam the Buna River and escaped to Yugoslavia.

YUGOSLAV-ALBANIAN RELATIONS NOT IMPROVING -- Tanjug, No 222, 10 Jun 50

Belgrade, 9 June -- The Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs regards all the previous refusals of the Albanian government to change its attitude toward the Yugoslav legation in Tirana as signifying that the Albanian government does not wish the Yugoslav legation in Tirana to be reopened. Consequently, the responsibility for worsened relations between the two countries rests exclusively with the Albanian government.

MORE ARRESTS IN MONTENEGRO -- Nova Borba, No 7, 25 Apr 50

In letters to the editor, it was reported that Engr Jovan Rajicevic, assistant to the chairman of the Planning Commissions for Montenegro, and Prof Marko Kazic, Minister of Education for Montenegro, were recently arrested by Yugoslav authorities.

UNDERGROUND PRISONS REPORTED -- Nova Borba, No 7, 25 Apr 50

At Banjica, near Belgrade, large underground prisons for Cominform Communists are being constructed. For that purpose, large quantities of cement are being shipped to Banjica from the cement factory in Beocin.

MACEDONIANS RALLY TO SUPPORT COMMUNIST PARTY -- Izgrev, No 1732, 13 May 50

A national convention of Macedonians residing in Bulgaria, held 19 to 21 July 1950, passed the following resolutions:

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1. To intensify the struggle against Tito's Yugoslavia, Greek monarchism, and Anglo-American imperialism, which attempt to terrorize Macedonians engaged in the fight against Greece, and which seek the complete physical destruction of all Macedonians living in the Aegean provinces.

2. To uphold the democratic front under the leadership of the USSR. The active cooperation of the Macedonians will spur the victory of the front and thereby bring the best solution of the Macedonian problem.

3. To support every activity designed to promote the national and cultural independence of the Macedonian people.

4. To rally all Macedonians under the banner of the Fatherland Front and the leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

5. To muster all members of Macedonian associations to fight against the enslavement of Balkan nations envisaged by the US.

6. To purge the associations of the remnants of Titoist and fascist influence, and of all elements supporting these tendencies.

7. To unite in the common front of democratic nations under the leadership of the USSR against the Anglo-American attempt at world domination.

To express friendship for and solidarity with the Macedonians fighting in the Vardar and Aegean provinces.

ANTI-TITO BRIGADE FORMING IN HUNGARY -- Dagens Nyheter, No 151, 8 Jun 50

According to the Vienna newspaper Hungaria, an international brigade to fight against Marshal Tito is about to be trained in Hungary. The decision to set up such a brigade was made in November 1949 at a meeting of the Cominform's military experts in the Matra mountains in Hungary, when the new Polish commander-in-chief, the Russian, Marshal Rokossovskiy, presided as chairman.

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